



The WeCAHN small ruminant network met Sept. 7, 2022.

Interesting Cases:

- **High numbers of severe pink eye cases.** Responding to antibiotics when given for 3 weeks in feed.
- **Infectious abortion:** Reported in two flocks, by one practitioner, and another **outbreak diagnosed at UCVM DSU, all associated with the bacterium *Chlamydophilus abortus***, a pathogen which can also cause disease in people.

Respiratory system:

- Respiratory disease was reported Never to Commonly by network practitioners. Generally lab diagnoses of the common forms of pneumonia, and associated agents, in sheep and goats, were Stable for this quarter (April – June 2022) relative to the same time period last year.

Digestive system:

- **Digestive disease** was reported diagnosed Never to Rarely to Commonly by network practitioners. Diarrhea was reported observed Commonly by one practitioner, associated with *E. coli*, primarily from one flock outbreak in which water quality was a factor in spread of the bacterium.
- There was a **slight uptick in *C. perfringens*** (the agent associated with pulpy kidney disease) detections at PDS. This bacterium is only intermittently detected in small ruminants at Manitoba VSDL.

Reproductive system:

- **Reproductive disease** as reported Rarely to Commonly by network practitioners in Q2 2022.
- Abortions were reported Rarely to Commonly.
- **Infectious causes of abortion** (*Chlamydophila abortus*, *Campylobacter foetus*, *Coxiella burnetii*), diagnosed by PCR test, appeared for Stable for Sheep and goats.
- Sheep and goat abortions submissions for which no cause was determined also remained Stable in Q2.
- UCVM reported an **outbreak of *Chlamydia* abortion in sheep**, and PDS reported an **abortion in sheep associated with *Campylobacter spp.***

Multi-systemic disease:

- **Nutritional disease**, as with blood poisoning, was reported Rarely to Commonly by the network practitioners.
- **Energy and protein deficiencies** were reported

Very frequently.

- **Copper and Vitamin E deficiencies** were reported Commonly, by one practitioner.
- **UCVM reported cases of non-viable neonatal sheep** associated with both Iodine deficiency, and vitamin A deficiency.
- ***Strep. plurianimalium***, a potentially zoonotic pathogen (can cause human illness), was isolated from goat milk and ram semen samples.

Scan:

- **Saskatchewan Agriculture: Anthrax in RM of Piapot #110 (Aug. 23/2022).**
- **Alberta Veterinary Medical Association: Anthrax in northern Alberta (Aug. 3/2022).**
- **Promed: Anthrax reported in bison in NWT (July 29/2022).**
- **Promed: Reports of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) detected in meat being brought into Australia July 20/2022).**

Meeting take-aways:

- **Water quality matters.** In some infectious disease outbreaks, water has been identified as a source of transmission. In drought-affected areas, water sources may have rising levels of sulfates over time, which can be a problem itself, and also antagonize availability of trace minerals such as copper.
- **Infectious abortion:** Flocks may experience problems as abortion storms, when first exposed to a pathogen, or enzootic abortion (fewer cases, primarily in replacement ewes) after. Some pathogens are targeted in current vaccines, and some are also potentially zoonotic. A factsheet outlining common causes, treatments, and prevention of infectious abortion is available at <https://bit.ly/3rjV0cz>
- **Raw milk:** Isolation of zoonotic pathogen (*Strep. plurianimalium*) from goat milk in Q2 2022 reinforces the potential dangers of raw milk consumption.